

**CAPSULE SUMMARY**  
**BA-536**  
**Methodist Protestant Parsonage**  
**410 Delaware Avenue**  
**Towson, Baltimore County**  
**1873**  
**Private**

The Methodist Protestant Parsonage at 410 Delaware Avenue, constructed circa 1873, is an important contribution to the community of East Towson. It was built for the pastor of Epsom Chapel. Joseph S. Bowen, of Towson, is responsible for the stone work and George Horn did the carpentry. It is a rare example of a Gothic Revival-style dwelling of stone construction in the East Towson neighborhood. It is also a rare vestige of an Anglo-American contribution from the third quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century that survives in the East Towson community.

Facing west, the Methodist Protestant Parsonage is located in Towson, an urban setting, and is fronted with several large mature shrubs and trees. It is sited close to the road and is surrounded by a paved parking lot and a driveway south of the dwelling. Constructed in 1873, this two-and-a-half story stone dwelling, featuring Gothic Revival-style characteristics, features a central passage plan and an L-shaped footprint with a two-story addition in the angle of the ell. It is constructed of random-rubble stone resting on the same, and features large squared long and short stone quoins. The dwelling exhibits symmetrical fenestration, and one corbeled brick chimney with a dentilated cornice rises above the cross-gable asphalt shingle roof. One circa 1970 shed is located to the rear of the property.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-536

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic      Methodist Protestant Parsonage  
other

### 2. Location

street and number      410 Delaware Avenue      not for publication  
city, town      Towson      vicinity  
county      Baltimore

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name      Whitestone Properties, LLC  
street and number      410 Delaware Avenue      telephone  
city, town      Baltimore      state      MD      zip code      21286-5110

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.      Baltimore County Courthouse      tax map and parcel:      70A/450  
city, town      Towson      liber      1626      folio      625

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
Other:

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing      Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1      buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	____ objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1      Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			1

## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA-536

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Facing west, the Methodist Protestant Parsonage is located in East Towson, an urban setting, and is fronted with several large mature shrubs and trees. It is sited close to the road and is surrounded by a paved parking lot and a driveway south of the dwelling. Constructed in 1873, this two-and-a-half-story stone dwelling features Gothic Revival-style characteristics. It has a central-passage plan and an L-shaped footprint with a two-story addition in the angle of the ell. It is constructed of random-rubble stone resting on a random-rubble stone foundation. It exhibits large squared long and short stone quoins on each corner, and symmetrical fenestration. One corbelled brick chimney with a course of dentils rises above the cross-gable asphalt shingle roof. The roof features overhanging eaves, a wood cornice, and a flush fascia board. One circa 1970 shed is located to the rear of the property.

### EXTERIOR

The façade, west elevation, is three bays wide with a center cross gable. The first story features a center entry containing a recessed single-leaf wood 1-light 3-panel door. The entrance is illuminated with a four-light transom and three-light sidelights over a paneled dado. Flanking the entry are two elongated 2/2 wood sash windows supported with square-edged wood sills and lug lintels. Covering the three bays on the first story is a rebuilt shed-roof porch supported with square PCV posts and a PCV square balustrade. Covering the crawl area beneath the porch is pressure-treated wood lattice. The second story has three pairs of elongated 1/1 wood sash windows separated by a wide flat mullion. These windows feature square wood sills and lug lintels. A round-arched 3-light by 3-light wood casement window in the center cross gable lights the upper story. Engraved on the wood sill of this window is "MP Parsonage." The roof features overhanging eaves, a wood cornice, and a flush fascia board.

Measuring three bays across on the north elevation, the main block has an elongated pair of 1/1 wood sash boarded-over windows in the center. The ell is lighted with two 6/6 wood sash windows; one has a boarded lower sash, and the second is entirely boarded over. The second story holds two 6/6 wood sash windows and one elongated pair of 1/1 wood sash windows. The attic story of the main block is illuminated with a smaller pair of 1/1 wood sash windows. Each of the windows is supported with square-edged wood sills and lug lintels.

A two-story concrete block addition is located on the east elevation. On this elevation is one pair of elongated 1/1 wood sash windows. Located on the first story to the south of the addition, it has a square-edged wood sill and lug lintel. An opening to hold an air-conditioning unit is cut into the first story of the addition. The second story of the addition is overhanging, clad with aluminum siding, and holds one 1/1 wood sash window. An opening has been cut in the second story to hold an air-conditioning unit. The parapet of this flat roof section lacks sheathing and the cornice of the ell is missing.

Two basement window openings on the south elevation are infilled with concrete slabs. Their original square wood lintels are still intact. Centered in the first and second stories of the main block is a pair of elongated 1/1 wood sash windows. The upper story is lit with a smaller pair of 1/1 wood sash windows. Each of these windows is supported with square-edged wood sills and lug lintels. The first story of

# Maryland Historical Trust

Inventory No BA-536

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name Methodist Protestant Parsonage

Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

the addition contains one 1-light wood hopper window on the south elevation and one on the west elevation. Access into the addition from this elevation is available through a single-leaf 9-light 3-panel wood door.

### INTERIOR

The first-floor plan features a center-passage hall and two partially gutted parlor rooms to the north and one room to the south. On the south side of the rear center passage are three rooms and a rear passage.

There are two entrances off the front hall into each of the side rooms. Against the north wall is the dog-leg closed stringer stair that lead up to the second floor. The stair features a heavy turned wood newel post, turned balusters, rounded nosing, and scrolled brackets. There are two entrances off the front hall into each of the side rooms. Both rooms in the main block off the front hall have one open doorway and one doorway holding a single-leaf flush metal door surrounded with metal trim. The front entry contains a 1-light over three panel wood door. It is illuminated with a four-light transom and three-light sidelights over a dado panel. An open doorway on the east wall provides access to the rear center passage. Cut in the six-inch pine floorboards is a square metal grate. The walls and ceiling are covered with lath and plaster.

Originally, the north parlor featured a square footprint. The partition wall in the north section separating the main block from the rear ell has been removed thus creating a long rectangular room. Placed in the main block on the south wall, a brick fireplace was recently revealed behind lath and plaster. To the east of the fireplace is an open doorway, and to the west is one single-leaf flush metal door. The west wall contains one recessed 2/2 wood sash window. On the north wall in the main block is one pair of 1/1 recessed wood sash windows boarded over. This window features fourteen-inch beveled casings and a ten-inch flush mullion. A stairway leading to the second floor once stood against the north wall in the rear ell. Below this original stairs is a descending stairway to the basement. On the north wall in the rear ell are two 6/6 wood sash windows partially boarded over. Each of the windows in the north section of the house are missing their sills and trim. The south wall in the rear ell features two doorways with missing doors. The floor has six-inch pine boards. Some of the floor has been removed and temporarily replaced with plywood. The lath and plaster remains partially intact on the walls but has been removed from the ceiling, which has exposed the ceiling joists. A ghost of a seven-inch baseboard is seen around the perimeter of the room.

The south parlor room features one recessed 2/2 wood sash window on the west wall. One pair of 1/1 recessed wood sash windows is seen in both the east and south walls. These two pairs of windows feature fourteen-inch beveled casings and a ten-inch wide flush mullion. Each of the windows have original wood trim and sill of fillet and cyma reversa moldings. The north wall contains two doorways; the westernmost is missing a door and the second contains a single-leaf replacement flush metal door with metal trim. The lath and plaster remains intact on the walls but has been removed from the ceiling exposing the ceiling joists. A ghost of a seven-inch baseboard is seen around the perimeter of the room.

The rear center passage has two open doorways on the north wall, one on the west

# Maryland Historical Trust

Inventory No BA-536

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name Methodist Protestant Parsonage

Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 2

wall, and three removed doors on the south walls. The center passage features exposed stone walls and an acoustic tile dropped ceiling. The westernmost room in the addition is a closet and the next two rooms function as bathrooms. The west wall of the closet is exposed stone, and the south wall is painted concrete block. The other two walls are painted wallboard. It features a poured concrete floor and a dropped acoustic tile ceiling. The walls of the bathrooms are covered with original wallboard and tiles, and it has a tile floor. The south wall of the center bathroom, and the west wall of the second bathroom holds a 1-light wood hopper window. Both bathrooms feature a dropped acoustic tile ceiling.

In the rear passage of the addition an opening was cut in the east wall in order to hold an air-conditioning unit. The south wall contains a single-leaf 9-light 3-panel wood door. The rear passage has a poured concrete floor, partially painted concrete block walls, and an acoustic tile dropped ceiling.

The second floor has a center passage with two rooms to the north and one room to the south. A closed stringer stair in the center passage leads up to the attic floor. The attic floor plan features a center passage with one room to the north and one room to the south of the passage. The basement is not finished.

### OUTBUILDINGS

One 1970s shed is associated with this property. It is wood frame clad with plywood and capped with a front gable roof. Details include exposed roof rafters, asphalt shingles covering the roof, and a single-leaf plywood door.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-536

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1873

Architect

Construction dates 1873

Builder

Joseph S. Bowen

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Methodist Protestant Parsonage at 410 Delaware Avenue, constructed circa 1873, is an important contribution to the community of East Towson. It was built for the pastor of Epsom Chapel, the last place of worship in Towson. Joseph S. Bowen of Towson is responsible for the stone work and George Horn did the carpentry. It is a rare example of a Gothic Revival-style dwelling of stone construction in the East Towson neighborhood. It is also a rare vestige of an Anglo-American contribution from the third quarter of the 19th century that survives in the East Towson community.

The Methodist Episcopal Church became a unified organization to serve the new nation in 1784. Over the years, large groups split away from the church and developed their own practicing religion. One of these groups was the Methodist Protestant Church, which began in 1830 with a group of 100,000 members. They perceived their religion as having a "more democratic order" which they achieved by reducing the bishops power.<sup>1</sup> The Methodist Protestant Church eventually ceased in 1939.

The Methodist Episcopal Church in Towson built the Epsom Chapel (BA-1104) and opened for service in 1839. The lot on which the church was built was donated by Henry B. Chew. Epsom Chapel was the center of the circuit, and the first place of worship in Towson. The present brick church was built in 1871, replacing the earlier church, at a cost of \$30,000. In 1874, the church edifice was dedicated by Bishop Ames. It was used by several congregations, including Methodist Protestant and Trinity. The pastors between the years 1871 and 1881 were Reverends J.W. Cornelius, J.B. Stitt, C. Herbert Richardson, J.B. Reil, and J.N. Davis.<sup>2</sup> Epsom Chapel was demolished in 1950, making way for Towsontown Centre and parking garage.

The Methodist Protestant Church in Towson was organized in 1861 under the supervision of Reverend Charles Littleton. This first congregation was formed by people who withdrew from Epsom Chapel. They first held service in the Odd Fellows Hall, and then acquired the Epsom Chapel when the Methodist Episcopal Church moved into a larger building.<sup>3</sup>

In 1873, the congregation received its first resident minister for whom they needed to build a Parsonage. The Church acquired a lease from Daniel Lee for a lot of land on Delaware Avenue.<sup>4</sup> The Maryland Journal recorded on April 5th 1873 recorded that work had commenced on the Parsonage. It states that the building is to be of stone, 22 x 34, with a back building 15 x 16, two stories, and is situated adjoining the residence

# Maryland Historical Trust

Inventory No BA-536

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name Methodist Protestant Parsonage

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

of Mr. Jesse Hunt.<sup>5</sup> On June 28, 1873 J.R. Nichols, Chairman of the Committee (the preacher in charge), had written in the Maryland Sun acknowledging several people for their donations: Mrs. Charles Ridgley, in stone for the entire building; Messrs. Ward, Parks, Shipley, Bosley and McKinney of Texas, in lime; Messrs. Anderson, Sheridan, Hall, Ware, Chew, Buton, Dunphy, Gent, and Windroth, in hauling; Messrs. Green, Judge Emory, Ady, Magill, Keech, Herbert, Slingluf, Hoffman, Harris, Erdman, and others in sums of money.<sup>6</sup> George Horn, carpenter, is noted as the person who built and designed Saint John's in Ruxton (BA-1559).<sup>7</sup> The minister in 1905 was Reverend Herbert F. Wright, who had a new church constructed on the west side of Towson. This small stone church opened in 1908 on the southwest corner of Bosley and Allegheny Avenues. In 1911, the location of the Parsonage was considered inconvenient to the new church, and the lease was sold to Ida E. Ward.<sup>8</sup> Following Ward as leaseholders of the Parsonage were:

Cowgill Gray	1916
Nellie V. Gray, et al	1939
Charles E. Stafford	1939
John M. Hester	1957
Walter H. Voight	1962

This property is sited on the western edge of a small African-American residential enclave in East Towson. East Towson is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, specifically the pre-Civil War development of an African-American neighborhood in a predominately white community. This neighborhood features building styles and construction materials that were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures. Many of the current homeowners and tenants living in the neighborhood are descendants of the first African-American residents.

The Parsonage is one of a few cross gable stone dwellings seen in the area. The East Towson neighborhood developed primarily towards the end of the 19th century. Daniel Harris, an African-American, purchased land in September 1853 in East Towson. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendants of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19th century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20th century.

The Methodist Protestant Parsonage was constructed in the Gothic Revival style, which was introduced to the United States in the 1830s by architect Alexander Jackson Davis and popularized through the pattern books of landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing as a reaction against Classicism. Reflective of this style are the square bell tower with steeple and pointed-arch windows. The Gothic Revival style abstracted elements from Gothic cathedrals of medieval Europe, primarily those of England and France. Although introduced to the United States in the 1830s by architect Alexander Jackson Davis, Andrew Jackson Downing, a landscape architect, popularized the Gothic Revival during the last half of the 19th century as a reaction against Classicism. This stone dwelling is a modest example of a Gothic Revival dwelling. Features

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No BA-536

Name Methodist Protestant Parsonage

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

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typical of this style seen with the Methodist Protestant Parsonage include symmetrical fenestration, elongated windows, a center passage plan, and a cross gable roof in the center of the façade, which contains a round-arched window.

### ENDNOTES

1. Kingsley Smith, Towson Under God, The Baltimore County Public Library, (Towson, 1976) p. 5.
2. Scharf, p. 902.
3. Ibid
4. Baltimore County Deeds, EHA 83, f. 458 (99-year lease).
5. Maryland Journal, Towson, April 5, 1973, p. 3, col. 1.
6. Maryland Journal, July 12, 1873.
7. Baltimore Sun, August 30, 1886, p.4, col. 5.
8. Baltimore County Deeds, WPC 389, f. 315.

### Chain of Title

April 2, 2002	Gary G. Gill to Whitestone Properties, LLC. Land Records of Baltimore County Liber 16267 Folio 625
April 10, 1972	Walter H. and Helen P. Voight to Gary G. Gill Land Records of Baltimore County Liber 5261 Folio 891
February 3, 1962	John L. and Isabel M. Frank to Walter H. Voight & Helen G. Voight Land Records of Baltimore County Liber WJR 3954 Folio 48
June 28, 1955	H. Courtenay Jenifer (Trustee to Daniel Lee) to John L. and Isabel M. Frank Land records of Baltimore County Liber GLB 2726 Folio 292
April 21, 1873	Daniel Lee to John R. Nichols, Preacher in Charge &



# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No BA-536

Name Methodist Protestant Parsonage

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 4

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members of Methodist Church  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber EHA 83 Folio 458

December 3, 1870 Thomas and Emily Baldwin to Daniel Lee  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber EHA 78 Folio 276

September 9, 1870 John and Maria Rutter (Executors of will of David Meconkey)  
to Thomas Baldwin  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber EHA 68 Folio 382

### Bibliography

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. A History of Baltimore County. Towson, MD:  
Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to  
the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.  
Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem,  
MA.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-536

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Sidney, J. C. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property	<u>.18 Acres</u>		
Acreage of historical setting	<u>Unknown</u>		
Quadrangle name	<u>Towson</u>	Quadrangle scale	<u>1:24,000</u>

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Methodist Protestant Parsonage is located at 410 Delaware Avenue in the Ninth District of Baltimore County. It has been associated with Tax Map 70A, parcel 450 since its construction in 1873.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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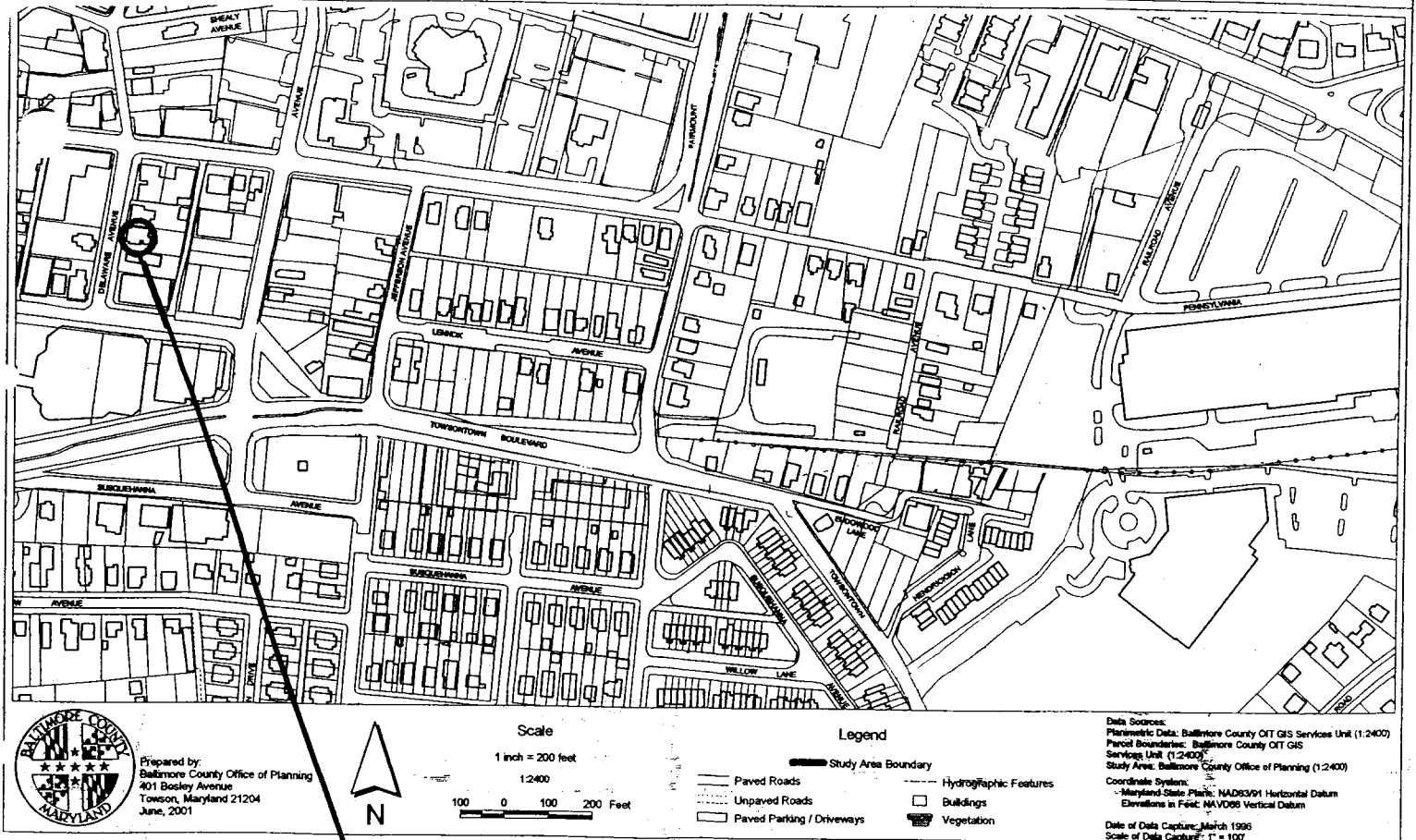
name/title	K. Baynard & J. Bunting, Architectural Historians		
organization	E.H.T. Traceries	date	6/17/2002
street and number	1121 Fifth Street, NW	telephone	202/3931199
city or town	Washington	state	DC zipcode 20001

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

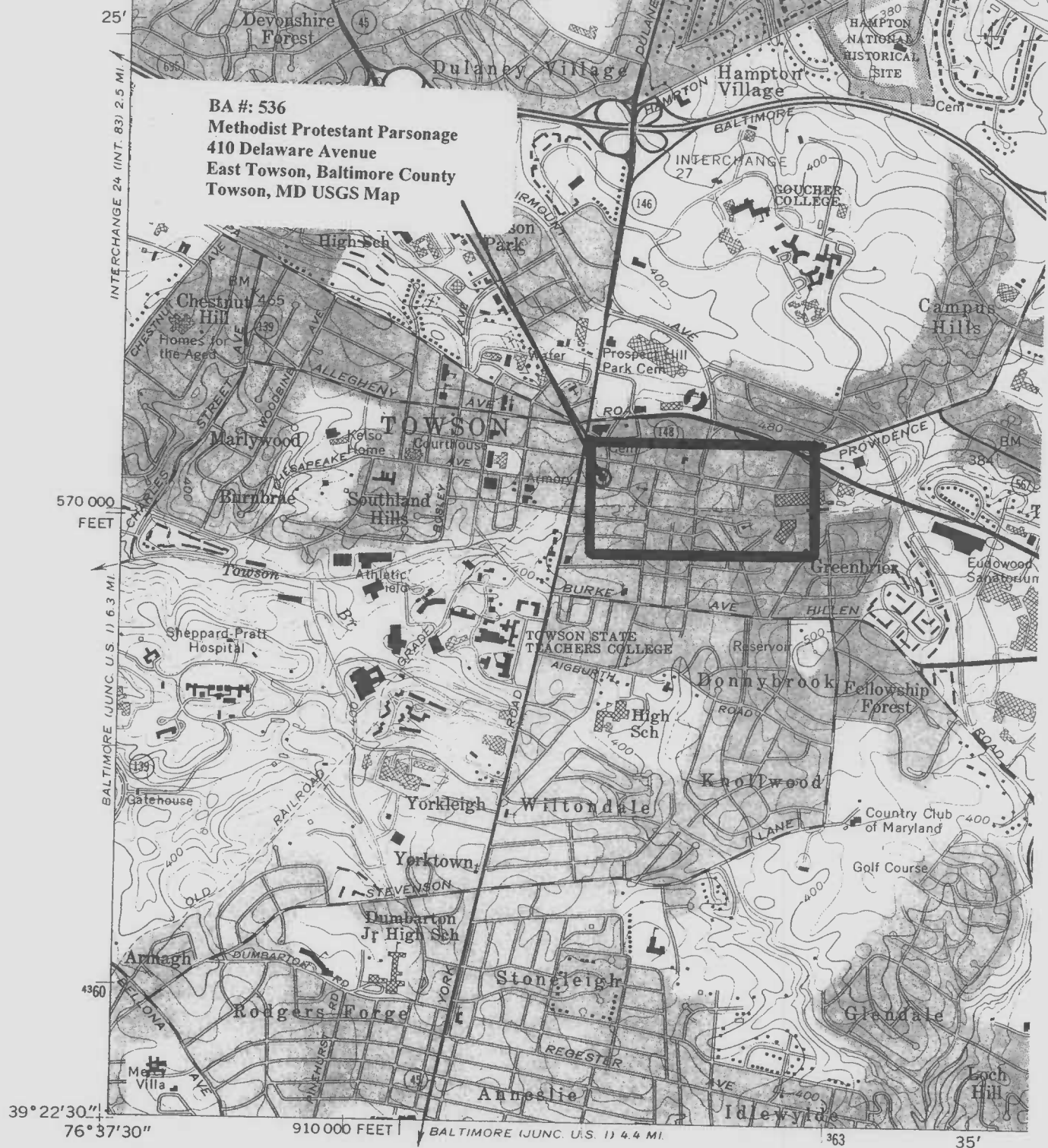
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032  
410-514-7600

# East Towson: Planimetric Data



**BA #: 536**  
**Methodist Protestant Parsonage**  
**410 Delaware Avenue**  
**East Towson, Baltimore County**  
**Towson, MD USGS Map**



(BALTIMORE WEST)  
 5602' SW

Mapped by the Army Map Service  
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and Maryland  
 Bureau of Control Surveys and Maps

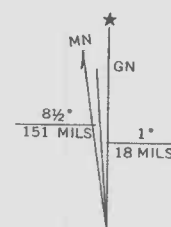
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs  
 taken 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944  
 Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1957

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
 10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system  
 1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
 zone 18, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only  
 landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from  
 aerial photographs taken 1966 and 1974. This information not  
 field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH  
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



BA-536

METHODIST PROTETANT ~~PROTESTANT~~

410 DELAWARE AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY MD

TRACERIES

1/2002

MD SHPO

WEST ELEVATION

149



BA-536

METHODIST PROTESTANT PARSONAGE

410 DELAWARE AVENUE

BALTIMORE County, MD

TRACERIES

1/2002

MD SHPD

NORTH ELEVATION

2 of 9





BA-536

METHODIST PROTESTANT PARSONAGE

410 DELAWARE AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

1/2002

MD SHPD

EAST ELEVATION

3 of 9



BA-536

METHODIST PROTESTANT PARSONAGE

410 DELAWARE AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

1/2002

MD SHPD

SOUTHWEST CORNER

4 of 9



BA-536

METHODIST PROTESTANT PARSONAGE

410 DELAWARE AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

V2002

MD SHPD

FIRST FLOOR, CENTER PASSAGE, CAMERA FACING EAST

5 of 9



BA-536

METHODIST PROTESTANT PARSONAGE

416 DELAWARE AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2002

MD SHPO

FIRST FLOOR, CENTER PASSAGE, CAMERA FACING WEST

6 of 9





BA-536

METHODIST PROTESTANT PARSONAGE

410 DELAWARE AVENUE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

VZ002

MD SHPO

FIRST FLOOR, NORTH ROOM, CAMERA FACING NORTHEAST

7 of 9



BA-536

METHODIST PROTESTANT PARSONAGE

410 DELAWARE AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

V2002

MD SHPO

FIRST FLOOR, SOUTH ROOM, CAMERA FACING SOUTHEAST



BA-536

METHODIST PROTESTANT PARSONAGE

410 DELAWARE AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

V2002

MD-SHPO

FIRST FLOOR, REAR PASSAGE, CAMERA FACING SOUTHEAST

## A.P. PARSONAGE

Although there are several cross-gable houses in this block, all dating from approximately the same period, this is the only one constructed of stone. It was built to serve as a parsonage for the Methodist Protestant congregation which had met in Towson as early as 1861.

The main section of this L-shaped house was divided into a central hall with flanking parlors and a kitchen-eating room extending to the East of the north side. The parlors were lighted by very large 2/2 windows

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

M.F. Parsonage

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

= 410 Delaware Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☒ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Gary D. Gill

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

New Courts Building

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE



CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>Spring, 1978</u>

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Although the 1898 map prepared by Bromley indicates this to be a wooden building it is in fact a stone structure. The 1877 Atlas shows, the "M.P. Parsonage" and an inscription in the cross-gable window of the structure identifies it as the same building. According to Kingsley Smith the "Methodist Protestant society (which stood for greater participation by lay people in church government than did the parent Methodist Episcopal Church) gathered in 1861, first at the Odd Fellows Hall and then at Epsom Chapel." This building was probably built before 1877 and after 1861.

Both early maps correctly show the Parsonage as an L-shaped building. It is a full two stories with a finished attic. The front (West) is a cross-gable facade which is three bays wide exhibiting a center hall plan. The west wing is one bay deep except where it projects into the L that makes the north side three bays deep. Very tall 2/2 windows vent the west facade on the first level and three pairs of 1/1 windows light the second story. The centralized entrance has a transom and sidelights that light the hall. The attic rooms are lighted by the round arch window in the central gable and smaller windows in the end gables. "M.P. Parsonage" is carved into the sill of the center gable window.

A full porch that appears to be original covers the first level of the west facade. It is supported by four square columns with chamfers.

The gray stones are laid with an attempt at coursing although their random size prevents strict regularity. The corners, however, are quoined with nicely squared stones.

The chimney is brick. It exits the roof at the ridge just north of center. It is corbeled with pointed dentils formed by laying bricks with their ends at an angle.

The house has been used for commercial purposes in modern times and there have been some alterations. A cinder block addition closes in the corner formed by the L. The present owner says that this addition replaces an earlier frame addition that had enclosed a porch. On the interior, walls have been removed, etc., to accomodate office space.

Many details have survived, however, and they speak of the Victorian era. The central hall had doors at either end with transoms. The transom and sidelights of the main door (west) are filled with glass frosted in a floral pattern. The hall contained a grand stairs of sorts made fancy by scrolled step-ends. The hall was flanked by parlors which had high 10 ft. ceilings, and they were lighted by equally high windows.

There is a full cellar beneath the house with stone walls. Two stone pillars measuring about 2' x 5' in thickness were observed in central locations supporting transverse sills or beams. Vertically sawn joists were observed. There may have originally been an exterior entrance to the cellar or at least an alteration to the interior stairs. A stairway has been cut through the joists for the stairwell framing. That frame is mortised-and-tenoned into the joists.

Some information was gained by examining the thrid level. It is finished off into two rooms divided by a hall. Although there are no lateral knee-

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## PERIOD

☐ PREHISTORIC  
☐ 1400-1499  
☐ 1500-1599  
☐ 1600-1699  
☐ 1700-1799  
☒ 1800-1899  
☐ 1900-

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  
☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC  
☐ AGRICULTURE  
☒ ARCHITECTURE  
☐ ART  
☐ COMMERCE  
☐ COMMUNICATIONS

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING  
☐ CONSERVATION  
☐ ECONOMICS  
☐ EDUCATION  
☐ ENGINEERING  
☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT  
☐ INDUSTRY  
☐ INVENTION

☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
☐ LAW  
☐ LITERATURE  
☐ MILITARY  
☐ MUSIC  
☐ PHILOSOPHY  
☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

☒ RELIGION  
☐ SCIENCE  
☐ SCULPTURE  
☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN  
☐ THEATER  
☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES 1861-1877

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although there are several cross-gable houses in this block, all dating from approximately the same period, this is the only one constructed of stone. It was built to serve as a parsonage for the Methodist Protestant congregation which had met in Towson as early as 1861.

The main section of this L-shaped house was divided into a central hall with flanking parlors and a kitchen-eating room extending to the East of the north side. The parlors were lighted by very large 2/2 windows

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

See Attachment

**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

**11 FORM PREPARED BY** WAYNE L. NIELD, II  
NAME / TITLE HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.

ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

DATE *Spring 1978*

STREET & NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

walls there are walls c. 15 inches high on the ends. The rooms have trapezoidal ceilings. They do retain some details such as a plain baseboard and four paneled doors with porcelain knobs and metal box locks.

Liber 2726, Folio 292 June 28, 1955

Grantor: H. Courtenay Jenifer, Trustee of the estate of Daniel Lee, deceased

Grantee: James C. L. Anderson et. al.

Liber 1204, Folio 275 December 8, 1941

Grantor: Nellie V. Gray et.al.

Grantee: Charles E. Stafford

Liber 1068, Folio 223 July 21, 1939

Grantor: Nellie V. Gray

Grantee: Nellie V. Gray et. al.

Liber 456, Folio 234 January 12, 1916

Grantor: Ida Ward

Grantee: Cowgill Gray

Liber 389, Folio 315 December 14, 1911

Grantor: Trustees of Towson Methodist and Protestant Church

Grantee: Ida E. Ward

The lot was on April 21, 1873 dimised by Daniel Lee & wife to John R. Nichols preacher and trustees for lease (EHA 83/458) trustees and successors have agreed to sell to Ida. E. Ward for \$2000.

Liber 83, Folio 458 April 21, 1873

Grantor: Daniel Lee & wife

Grantee: John R. Nichols and trustees Methodist-Protestant church

Liber 78, Folio 276 December 3, 1870

Grantor: Thomas Baldwin & wife

Grantee: Daniel Lee

"Beginning...east side of Delaware Ave...110' to South... 143.6' to alley...South 110'...143.6' to beginning."

Liber 68, Folio 383 September 9, 1870

Grantor: John Rutter et. al.

Grantee: Thomas Baldwin

McConkey's will - JLR 3/253

Liber 64, Folio 360 December 6, 1869

Grantor: John & Maria Rutter et. al.

Grantee: Thomas Baldwin

Methodist Protestant ChurchTax Assessment 1876 f. 36

Towsontown lot Ches. Ave. 55x143	500
Improvements- Stone parsonage	2500
Furniture	<u>180</u>
	3180

The parsonage was located at 410 Delaware Ave. according to the map of Towsontown in the Hopkins atlas of 1877.

## TITLE SEARCH for M. P. PARSONAGE

Liber 5261, Folio 891 April 10, 1972

Grantor: Walter H. Voight & wife

Grantee: Gary G. Gill

"Beginning..east side of Delaware Ave. 55' Northerly from the North corner...55' to the southwest corner...143.6' to center of alley...South 55'...Westerly 143.6'...beginning...known as # 410 Delaware Ave."

Liber 4332, Folio 524 July, 1964

Grantor: Charles E. Orth, Jr. & wife

Grantee: Walter H. Voight & wife

Liber 4332, Folio 521 July, 1964

Grantor: Walter H. Voight & wife

Grantee: Charles E. Orth, Jr.

Liber 3954, Folio 48 February 3, 1962

Grantor: Isabell M. Frank & wife

Grantee: Walter H. Voight & wife

Liber 3507, Folio 54 March 31, 1959

Grantor: John M. Hester & wife

Grantee: Walter H. Voight

Liber 3119, Folio 223 February 13, 1957

Grantor: Evelyn E. Grolock

Grantee: John M. Hester

Liber 3119, Folio 221 February 13, 1957

Grantor: John M. Hester

Grantee: Evelyn E. Grolock

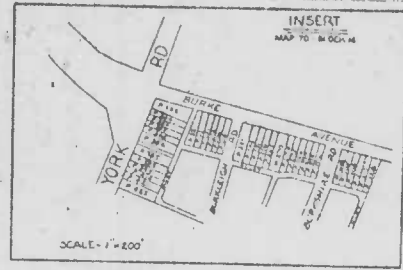
Liber 3119, Folio 219 February 13, 1957

Grantor: Leroy Y. Haile, Executor of the Estate of Virginia Maude Stafford

Grantee: John M. Hester

BA-536

M. P. Parsonage



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MD DEPT OF ASSESS & TAX

**TOWSON**  
SCALE 1"=200'  
DEPT. OF ASSESSMENT & TAXATION  
TAX MAP DIVISION  
MAP N 70A







BA - 536

M. P. PARSONAGE  
W.

W. NIEL D  
SPR 78



BA-536

M. P. PARSONAGE  
E.

W. NIED  
SPR. 78